United Nations

A/CONF.192/PC/53

General Assembly

Distr.: General
4 April 2001
English
Original: Arabic

Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects
Third session
19-30 March 2001

Note verbale dated 26 March 2001 from the Permanent Mission of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee, transmitting drafting proposals on the revised draft Programme of Action (A/CONF.192/PC/L.4/Rev.1)

The Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar to the United Nations presents its compliments to H.E. Ambassador Carlos Dos Santos, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Mozambique to the United Nations and Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and, with reference to the latter's note dated 9 February 2001 concerning the views of the Government of the State of Qatar on the working paper by the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee entitled "Draft Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects", has the honour to attach herewith the observation and views of the concerned authorities in the State of Qatar regarding the above-mentioned draft Programme of Action (see annex).

01-33062 (E) 170401 270401

Annex

Comments and views of Qatar on the Draft Programme of Action presented by the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects

1. At the national level

(a) Qatar has no national agency or body to monitor efforts to prevent the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. Since Qatar is not one of those countries that manufacture such weapons or ammunition for them or any of their components, we are satisfied with the laws, regulations and administrative procedures we have established to exercise effective control over the stockpiling, possession, use and registration of such weapons.

(b) Since we are convinced that there is a need for an overall approach to preventing illicit traffic as a contribution on our part to enhancing international peace and security, it has been decided to prohibit the illicit exportation, importation, transit and re-transfer of light weapons, while reserving Qatar's right to import small arms and light weapons for use in self-defence and internal security in accordance with the provisions of Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations.

(c) We undertake to keep comprehensive and accurate records of the holding and transfer of small arms and light weapons that carry precise and distinctive markings and to place appropriate markings, as required, on small arms and light weapons that [do not] have markings or have imprecise markings.

2. At the regional level

(a) We encourage regional action among the States members of the Gulf Cooperation Council in transboundary customs cooperation as well as networks for the exchange of information for the purpose of containing and eliminating the illicit cross-border trade in small arms and light weapons. We also support the establishment of a point of contact to act as liaison on matters relating to the implementation of the Programme of Action.

(b) Laws and programmes of action at the regional level should be strengthened and expanded in order to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, and there should be cooperation with the countries concerned in their implementation using all necessary measures, including technical assistance.

3. At the global level

(a) Qatar complies with the fundamental rules of international law and the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, including the principles of the sovereign equality of States, the peaceful settlement of disputes and non-interference in the internal affairs of States. We encourage the great contribution being made by civil society in general and non-governmental organizations in particular to enhancing the stability and security of States and to eliminating [the illicit trade in weapons] as well as in raising awareness of and addressing the problems associated with such weapons.

(b) We stress the importance of encouraging States and the World Customs Organization, as well as other relevant organizations, to consider enhanced cooperation with the International Criminal Police Organization-Interpol to identify groups and individuals engaged in the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons.

(c) We are of the view that there is a pressing need for major efforts by all States in disarmament negotiations; for greater candour, clarity and transparency with regard to holdings and sales of small arms and light weapons; for exports of such weapons to be placed under strict control; and for curbs on exports of weapons that are used for purposes other than legitimate defence and security and encourage terrorism or are used to interfere in the internal affairs of States or to undermine the economies of developing countries. It is therefore essential to establish a United Nations register of transfers of small arms and light weapons, and we urge all States to show greater candour with regard to sales of such weapons.

4. Implementation, international cooperation and assistance

(a) We support and encourage measures to prevent conflicts from erupting and the endeavour whenever possible to settle such conflicts by means of negotiations.

(b) We must enhance cooperation, the exchange of experience and training among competent arms control officials at the national, regional and subregional levels, and we must elaborate international training programmes on small arms stockpile management and security.

(c) There should be continued advocacy and action on preventive measures and on evaluating the impact of these measures.

5. Follow-up to the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects

(a) We agree that a Review Conference should be convened to review progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action.

(b) It would be appropriate to convene a meeting of States every two years to consider the implementation of the Programme of Action at the regional level and once a year [to consider implementation] at the national level.

(c) We encourage the United Nations and other appropriate international and regional organizations to undertake initiatives to promote the implementation of the Programme of Action; and we encourage all initiatives to mobilize resources and expertise to promote the implementation of the Programme of Action.